

Simeon Blesses Jesus

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON



Theme: We keep our promises.

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Memory Verse: "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Luke 2:26

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- A calendar for the new year
- Sticky notes - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child

Do This:

SAY: It is the beginning of a New Year. (Show the calendar.) A brand new calendar for a fresh start on life. Most people start the new year by making some New Year Resolutions. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves that we are going to do certain things. Usually it is a promise to do better next year than we did last year. Here's a list of resolutions that might be good for children to make.

- I will watch less TV and get more exercise.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car.
- I will be nice to other kids---even my brothers and sisters!

- **I will put away my toys when I am through playing with them.**

Can you think of some more resolutions you could make? (Allow kids to give ideas.)

Some people don't take New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they're just promises to yourself. We might think that if we don't follow through, it's no big deal. But it is a big deal! A promise is a promise and it's important to keep your promises--even if it's just a promise to yourself.

Think of something important enough to make a promise about this year. Write a word or quick symbol on a sticky note to say what that promise is.

Distribute the sticky notes and pens or pencils. Have kids write or draw, and then place their sticky notes on the calendar either on the date they want to have it done or the last day of the year.

The Bible tells about a very important promise God made to His people. Thankfully, God is always faithful in keeping His promises. We learn in the Bible about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had waited his whole life to see God's promise come to himself and to God's people. God had promised to send a Messiah or savior to the world, and God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to God. Simeon was in the temple as usual. As soon as Simeon saw baby Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

Anna was a prophet who was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshiping and praying. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she praised God and told everyone that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised.

Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping His promises, we can be faithful in keeping our promises. (Allow time for kids to hold up the promises they made to God.)

PRAY: Dear God, just as You're faithful to keep Your promises, help us be faithful in keeping our promises. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Memory Verse

"It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Luke 2:26

You'll Need:

- **Classroom with a window (or go outdoors, weather permitting)**
- **Binoculars - one pair for each small group**
- **Poster board**
- **Index cards**
- **Marker**
- **Paper**
- **Pens or pencils**

- **A Bible**

Get Ready: Write words or phrases from today's Bible memory verse on large pieces of poster board so the entire verse is covered. Hide these outside so that when kids look through binoculars out the window, they can see the signs. Alternatively, place the words in small lettering on index cards and hang them on one end of the room; so kids must use the binoculars to search for them.

Do This:

- Divide the class into smaller groups.
- Explain that each group has to take turns among their members with the binoculars. They will look out the window and when they see a poster, they will report the words to the group who will write them down.
- After they think they have all the words, they will write the verse in order.
- Afterward, invite teams to look up Luke 2:26 and see how well they did putting the verse in order.
- As a class, say the verse aloud several times together.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- **Bibles - one per child**
- **"Simeon Blesses Jesus" handouts - one per child**
- **Pens or pencils - one per child**

Do This:

- Give each child a “Simeon Blesses Jesus” handout and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that kids are to look up the verses, write them on the lines, and then match the verses to the promises.
- After they have had time to complete the worksheet, go over the answers.

ASK:

- **What promise meant the most to you and why?**
- **Is it easy or hard for you to believe that God will keep His promises? Why or why not?**

SAY: God’s Holy Spirit showed Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. That’s a big promise and Simeon was getting old. God led him to the temple and he got to see Jesus. Simeon believed God’s promise to him. You can believe God’s promises, too!

“Jesus Is God’s Promise to Us” Video Lesson

You’ll Need:

- [“Jesus Is God’s Promise to Us”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- **What surprised you in this video?**

- What questions do you have?
- Why do you think Jesus is worth waiting for?

Baby Jesus Snacks

You'll Need:

- Nutter Butter Cookies
- Blue Icing
- Paper plates - one per child
- Black icing gel

Do This:

- Give each child a paper plate and a Nutter Butter cookie.
- Explain to kids that they're going to make a baby Jesus with a blanket on Him.
- Invite kids to dip their Nutter Butters in blue icing to form the blanket covering for baby Jesus about three-quarters of the way up the cookie.
- Using the black gel icing, invite kids to make a face on the baby Jesus cookie.
- Allow kids to have more than one cookie for their snack.

SAY: Can you imagine what Simeon must have felt when He finally saw Jesus with His own eyes? Simeon said:

**"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."**

ASK:

- Tell about a time someone made a promise to you and kept it.
- Tell about a promise that you've made and kept.

Simeon Singoff

You'll Need:

- Paper
- Instruments like drums, tambourine, shakers, etc.

Get Ready: Before class, print off a copy of the words Simeon praised God with in Luke 2:29-32 for each child.

Do This:

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Give each child the lyrics to Simeon's prayer and give groups time to make up a song to these lyrics.
- Once each group has had time, invite them to perform their songs in front of the class.

ASK:

- What stands out to you in Simeon's prayer? Why?
- What things do you say when you praise God?

SAY: Once Simeon saw Jesus with his eyes, he took time to praise God. Simeon knew God had been faithful to keep His promises.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Promise Snow Globe

You'll Need:

- [Simeon Blesses Jesus How-to video](#)
- Jars with lids - 1 per child
- Aluminum foil
- Various colors of polymer clay
- Distilled water
- Silicon sealant
- Permanent marker
- Toaster oven
- Clear nailpolish
- Glycerin
- Craft stick
- Silicone glue
- Towel
- Mailing label

Do This:

To make the Promise Snow Globes, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child a jar. Invite them to write their name on the lid.

- Have kids turn the lid over. Give kids a piece of aluminum foil to make a lump that will fit on the lid.
- Have them cover the aluminum foil in brown polymer clay. This will be the foundation that a clay baby Jesus will be placed on.
- Have kids use some more clay to make a baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket.
- Cover kids' baby Jesus and the mound in aluminum foil.
- A volunteer will take these and bake them on 275 for 20 minutes.
- When baby Jesus is hard and cooled, have kids glue Him and the mound to the inside lid of the jar.
- To protect baby Jesus, invite kids to paint Him with clear nail polish. Let dry completely.
- Fill the jars with distilled water and add a couple drops of glycerin to each jar of distilled water.
- Have kids add glitter to the water and stir it up with a craft stick.
- Have kids add silicon glue to the top of the jar and then gently put the lid with baby Jesus glued to it on the jar and screw it shut.
- Be sure to use a towel to catch water overflow as kids put the tops on.
- Invite kids to write, "God Keeps His Promises" on a mailing label and stick it on the side of the jars.

ASK:

- **What is a promise you especially need to remember about God right now?**

SAY: Simeon saw Jesus with his very own eyes before he died, just as he was promised. God keeps His promises. Take your snowglobe home and put it in a special spot to remind you that God keeps His promises.

Ornament Prayers

You'll Need:

- **"God Keeps His Promises" handout printed on colorful paper - 1 for each child**
- **Colorful paper**
- **Clear plastic Christmas ornaments**
- **Scissors**
- **Permanent markers**

Do This:

- Give each child a "God Keeps His Promises" sheet and invite them to cut the strips apart.
- Have kids put the strips in their clear ornaments.
- Challenge them to think of someone who needs to be reminded that God keeps His promises.
- Using a permanent marker, invite kids to write "I'm Praying for You" on their ornament. Once done, ask kids to hold their ornaments in their hands and silently pray for the people they thought about.
- Challenge kids to deliver their ornaments to the people in secret or in person.

ASK:

- **Tell why it's important to you to share that God keeps His promises with the person you made the ornament for.**

PRAY: Dear God, You keep Your promises. Help us remember that we can count on You to keep Your Word. You know each person we prayed for today. Help them know that You are a God that keeps His promises. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "God Is So Good"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- Song: "My God Is So Great"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

Do This:

SAY: There is no one greater than our God. Let's worship Him through song now.

Lead children in singing "God Is So Good" and "My God Is So Great."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Simeon Recognizes Jesus Jumble](#)

- [Simeon Recognizes Jesus Word Search](#)
- [Simeon Recognizes Jesus Crossword](#)

Complete Supply List:

- A calendar for the new year
- [Sticky notes](#) - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child
- Classroom with a window (or go outdoors, weather permitting)
- [Binoculars](#) - one pair for each small group
- [Poster board](#)
- [Index cards](#)
- [Markers](#)
- [Paper](#)
- Bibles - one per child
- "Simeon Blesses Jesus" handouts - one per child
- "Jesus Is God's Promise to Us" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- [Nutter Butter Cookies](#)
- [Blue Icing](#)
- [Paper plates](#) - one per child
- [Black icing gel](#)
- Instruments like drums, tambourine, shakers, etc.
- Jars with lids - 1 per child
- [Aluminum foil](#)
- [Various colors of polymer clay](#)
- Distilled water

- [Silicon sealant](#)
- [Permanent marker](#)
- Toaster oven
- [Clear nailpolish](#)
- [Glycerin](#)
- [Craft stick](#)
- [Silicone glue](#)
- Towel
- [Mailing label](#)
- "God Keeps His Promises" handout printed on colorful paper - 1 for each child
- [Colorful paper](#)
- [Clear plastic Christmas ornaments](#)
- Scissors

[Back to the top](#)

Simeon Blesses Jesus

AT HOME LESSON

Theme: We keep our promises.

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- A calendar for the new year
- Sticky notes - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child

Do This:

SAY: It is the beginning of a New Year. (Show the calendar.) A brand new calendar for a fresh start on life. Most people start the new year by making some New Year Resolutions. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves that we are going to do certain things. Usually it is a promise to do better next year than we did last year. Here's a list of resolutions that might be good for children to make.

- I will watch less TV and get more exercise.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car.
- I will be nice to other kids--even my brothers and sisters!
- I will put away my toys when I am through playing with them.

Can you think of some more resolutions you could make? (Allow kids to give ideas.)

Some people don't take New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they're just promises to yourself. We might think that if we don't follow through, it's no big deal. But it is a big deal! A promise is a promise and it's important to keep your promises--even if it's just a promise to yourself.

Think of something important enough to make a promise about this year. Write a word or quick symbol on a sticky note to say what that promise is.

Distribute the sticky notes and pens or pencils. Have kids write or draw, and then place their sticky notes on the calendar either on the date they want to have it done or the last day of the year.

The Bible tells about a very important promise God made to His people. Thankfully, God is always faithful in keeping His promises. We learn in the Bible about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had waited his whole life to see God's promise come to himself and to God's people. God had promised to send a Messiah or savior to the world, and God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to God. Simeon was in the temple as usual. As soon as Simeon saw baby Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

Anna was a prophet who was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshiping and praying. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she praised God and told everyone that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised.

Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping His promises, we can be faithful in keeping our promises. (Allow time for kids to hold up the promises they made to God.)

PRAY: Dear God, just as You're faithful to keep Your promises, help us be faithful in keeping our promises. In Jesus' name, amen.

“Jesus Is God’s Promise to Us” Video Lesson

You’ll Need:

- [“Jesus Is God’s Promise to Us”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- What surprised you in this video?
- What questions do you have?
- Why do you think Jesus is worth waiting for?

Baby Jesus Snacks

You’ll Need:

- Nutter Butter Cookies
- Blue Icing
- Paper plates - one per child
- Black icing gel

Do This:

- Give each child a paper plate and a Nutter Butter cookie.

- Explain to kids that they're going to make a baby Jesus with a blanket on Him.
- Invite kids to dip their Nutter Butters in blue icing to form the blanket covering for baby Jesus about three-quarters of the way up the cookie.
- Using the black gel icing, invite kids to make a face on the baby Jesus cookie.
- Allow kids to have more than one cookie for their snack.

SAY: Can you imagine what Simeon must have felt when He finally saw Jesus with His own eyes? Simeon said:

**"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."**

ASK:

- Tell about a time someone made a promise to you and kept it.
- Tell about a promise that you've made and kept.

Snowflake Prayers

You'll Need:

- White paper
- Scissors
- Markers

Do This:

- Give each child a square or round white piece of paper.
- Have kids fold the paper as many times as possible.
- Have kids cut little notches out on all the folded edges.
- Have kids unfold their new snowflakes.
- Encourage kids to write a message to God, such as "I believe Your promises" or "I will wait for Your promises."
- Invite kids to say a silent prayer thanking God for keeping His promises before they hang the Snowflake Prayers on your door.

ASK:

- **What's a promise you want to make to God today?**

PRAY: Dear God, You keep your promises. Help us remember that we can count on You to keep Your Word. Help us to keep our promises to You. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and that He died in our place for our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Complete Supply List:

- A calendar for the new year
- [Sticky notes](#) - one per child
- Pens or pencils - one per child
- "Jesus Is God's Promise to Us" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- [Nutter Butter Cookies](#)
- [Blue Icing](#)

- [Paper plates](#) - one per child
- [Black icing gel](#)
- [White paper](#)
- Scissors
- [Markers](#)

[Back to the top](#)